

Precinct Caucus Basics

WHEN AND WHERE WILL 2018 PRECINCT CAUCUSES BE HELD?

The 2018 precinct caucuses will be held on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Precinct caucuses are conducted every even-numbered year by Minnesota State Law.

Caucus locations are available here ([MN Secretary of State's office](#)) and on the political parties' websites. Locations are also announced in local newspapers.

WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

Precinct caucuses are meetings run by **Minnesota's political parties**. A "precinct" is either a rural township or a political division within municipalities. A "caucus" is the first in a series of meetings where political parties may:

- select delegates
- pass resolutions (called party platforms)
- conduct a preference ballot for Governor candidates

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN A PRECINCT CAUCUS?

All Minnesota citizens who are eligible to vote in the November 2018 general election and who live in the precinct are encouraged to attend their local precinct caucus. You also must generally agree with the principles of the political party hosting the caucus.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE PRECINCT CAUCUS?

Each political party runs its caucus meetings a little differently. This could include:

1. **Vote for the person you want the party to support for Governor**, called the preference ballot or straw poll. The results help gauge support for candidates.
2. **Pass resolutions for the party and its candidates for office at all levels to support**. This is done by caucus attendees introducing a resolution about a public policy issue and discussing it. If you convince other attendees to vote for your resolution, it will be taken to the next political convention. Eventually, your resolution could become part of the official party platform.
3. **Choose delegates who will endorse candidates at future conventions**. At future conventions, party delegates will endorse state and federal candidates, including for Governor, U.S. House of Representatives, and, in Minnesota in 2018, two U.S. Senate seats. These elected delegates have two years terms for scheduled party conventions.

RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING PRECINCT CAUCUSES

So that all voters can attend the caucus, some groups cannot hold meetings after 6 p.m. on caucus night, Minnesota Statute **202A.19**:

- No special taxing district governing body, school board, county board of commissioners, township board, or city council can hold a meeting after 6:00 p.m.
- No public elementary or secondary school may hold a school sponsored event after 6:00 p.m.
- No state agency, board, commission, department, or committee can conduct a public meeting after 6:00 p.m.
- The University of Minnesota may not schedule an event which will take place after 6:00 p.m unless permission to do so has been received from the Board of Regents.
- No Minnesota state college or university may schedule an event which will take place after 6:00 p.m. unless permission to do so has been received from the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.